

Memorandum

From: Speaker William G. Batchelder

To: House GOP Caucus members

Date: December 2, 2011

Re: Ohio Republican Party



Per our discussion at caucus last week, I would like to keep you informed about the situation with the state party.

This morning, I was disappointed to learn that Chairman Kevin DeWine leveled irresponsible remarks that amounted to a direct, personal attack on Governor Kasich at a meeting of the Ohio Republican Party State Central Committee.

In a speech before a public session of the party's governing body, the Chairman accused our Governor's team of being motivated by arrogance and personal profit. He alleged that Governor Kasich's team was attempting to take over the party for personal profit, ego and power.

It is inconceivable to me that the Ohio Republican Party Chairman, whose role is supposed to be supporting Republican efforts, candidates, and officeholders, would make such baseless, negative comments about Ohio's Governor in a public forum.

Our caucus has worked with Governor Kasich this year to accomplish great things for Ohio, including closing the \$8 billion hole in the state budget, eliminating the estate tax and reinventing the way Ohio does business when it comes to creating and retaining jobs.

Why is the Chairman of the Ohio Republican Party using his bully pulpit to work against the Governor and the progress that has been made in our state?

Sadly, this unprovoked attack is just another example of the Chairman's questionable leadership tactics and poor decision making. Until recently, I have been reluctant to publicly discuss our frustrations about state party operations. Last November, we retook the majority despite the numerous examples of Chairman DeWine's attempts to thwart our efforts:

- * Chairman DeWine refused to lend state party resources to incumbent House members who were opposed in primary elections, costing our caucus money that could have been spent defeating Democrats;

- * Chairman DeWine refused to allow our caucus access to state party equipment and also targeting data specifically compiled for our members;

- * Chairman DeWine actively discouraged donors from contributing to House Republicans, frequently stating that "this is not the House's year;"

* Chairman DeWine refused to allow House Republicans to participate in weekly leadership meetings and conference calls; and

* Chairman DeWine refused to include House Republican candidates on state party polling.

And it's not just our caucus who has concerns with Chairman DeWine's priorities and leadership.

The Chairman enraged many in our party's base when only weeks after being installed as Chairman, he told the Columbus Dispatch that, "For too long... social issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage have driven the GOP agenda causing it to lose voters looking for pragmatic solutions to everyday problems." Last year he angered Tea Party activists and even sent an email out to party leaders saying they are, "...people who find the truth just too inconvenient for their agenda." This insult, against the people who make up the base of the Republican Party, cannot be tolerated.

Even more disturbing is Chairman DeWine's decision to pay two consultants who were the subject of an FBI and IRS investigation. According to the Columbus Dispatch he paid them over \$1.7 million, despite the shame and ill repute they brought to the Ohio House of Representatives.

I know you share my deep concern about the direction the state chairman is leading our party. It is especially distressing me to know that while we are working every day to improve our state, the leader of our political party is undermining the accomplishments we have made.

With the 2012 elections upon us, we must strive to unite our party so Republicans at every level can succeed. We cannot have a situation where the state party, and the Governor, and the Speaker of the House do not have a trusting and cooperative partnership.